United Nations A/53/577

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 64

Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Motaz M. **Zahran** (Egypt)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 17 September 1998, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 63 to 79, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 12 to 16 and from 19 to 21 October (see A/C.1/53/PV.3–12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 14th to 21st meetings, on 23 and from 27 to 30 October and on 2 November (see A/C.1/53/PV.14–21). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 22nd to 31st meetings, from 3 to 6 and on 9, 10, 12 and 13 November (see A/C.1/53/PV.22–31).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General (A/53/333);

(b) Letter dated 22 July 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/204);

(c) Letter dated 12 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/497–S/1998/951);

98-36505 (E) 251198

(d) Letter dated 29 October 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/575);

(e) Note verbale dated 10 July 1998 from the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/176);

(f) Letter dated 27 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/53/9).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.44 and Rev.1

5. At the 18th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of *Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg,* the *Netherlands, Norway, Portugal,* the *Republic of Moldova,* the *Russian Federation, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine* and the *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,* introduced a draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States" (A/C.1/53/L.44). Subsequently, *Andorra, Canada,* the *Congo, Cyprus,* the *Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Iceland, Monaco,* the *Philippines, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Sweden* and the *United States of America* joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 21st meeting, on 2 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States" (A/C.1/53/L.44/Rev.1), submitted by the same sponsors, in which the seventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "*Convinced* of the necessity to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to prevent the outbreak of conflicts",

was replaced by:

> "*Convinced* of the necessity to enhance the overall conflict prevention and resolution capability of the United Nations system to prevent the outbreak of conflicts".

7. At its 24th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee held separate votes on operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the revised draft resolution.

8. Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by a recorded vote of 144 to none. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

None.

9. Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by a recorded vote of 143 to none. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

None.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution, as a whole, by a recorded vote of 136 to none, with 7 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Chile, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Pakistan.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and relevant treaties and other relevant principles and provisions of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, *inter alia*, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and to develop friendly relations among nations, and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, including rights for persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Deeply concerned that situations which may threaten international peace and security persist in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to prevent such situations in the future,

Convinced of the necessity to enhance the overall conflict prevention and resolution capability of the United Nations system to prevent the outbreak of conflicts,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

Considering that the violent disintegration of States can pose a threat to international peace and security,

Noting that the vast majority of violent conflicts at present are conflicts within States,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help prevent conflicts which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

2. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to preventing the violent disintegration of States and to promoting international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. *Calls upon* all States to solve their disputes with other States by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter;

4. *Affirms* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders;

5. *Also affirms* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

6. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security;

7. *Requests* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States".